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Pileated Woodpeckers in Sonoma County, California

Pileated Woodpeckers have been reported as occurring about Cazadero, Sonoma County, California (Grinnell and Wythe, Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 18, 1927), however it was interesting to me to learn that these large birds are still present in that region.

On June 7 and 8, 1946, I visited the Cazadero Congregational Camp some seven miles northwest of Cazadero. The eight hundred acre tract was recently purchased by that organization and no shooting is now allowed. It ranges from nine hundred to nineteen hundred feet in elevation and is wooded primarily with redwood and Douglas fir trees.

In the social hall in the "bunk house" of the camp is a specimen of Pileated Woodpecker (Ceophloeus pileatus picinus) mounted in a flying position and suspended by a wire from the ceiling. Mr. Clarence Young, the caretaker, who had the bird prepared, told me that so far as he could determine there are six Pileated Woodpeckers on the property. He said the bird which he had mounted was found dead in the middle of October 1945 in the vineyard near his house, and that he has often observed these large woodpeckers feeding on grapes.

It is gratifying to know that the area referred to has been closed to shooting, as these largest of all the western woodpeckers need all the protection that can be given them.

—Emerson A. Stoner, Benicia, California.

November Field Trip

Under the leadership of Mrs. Wayne Henrie, a small group of Audubonites spent a most pleasant day of birding at Stinson Beach. The weather was sunny, warm, and windless. In the willow thickets and marshes abounded many warblers, sparrows, and other small birds, while along the edge of the lagoon were seen numerous shore birds. The thrill of the day was the sight of nine White Pelicans slowly flapping and sailing overhead. The following

46 species were observed:

Eared Grebe
Western Grebe
Pied-billed Grebe
White Pelican
Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Common Egret
White-winged Scoter
Turkey Vulture
Marsh Hawk
Scra Rail
Killdeer
Willet
Least Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper

Red-backed Sandpiper Glaucous-winged Gull Western Gull California Gull Ring-billed Gull Anna Hummingbird Belted Kingfisher Red-shafted Flicker Black Phoebe California Jay Wren-tit Bewick Wren Robin Hermit Thrush Mexican Bluebird

Ruby-crowned Kinglet Audubon Warbler Yellow-throat Red-Winged Blackbird Brewer Blackbird Purple Finch House Finch Arkansas Goldfinch Spotted Towhee Brown Towhee Savannah Sparrow Lark Sparrow White-crowned Sparrow Golden-crowned Sparrow Fox Sparrow Song Sparrow

En route to the meeting place, the leader reported seeing an additional 4 species: Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Coot.

In the afternoon part of the group enjoyed an extra trip by leaving the bus at Mountain Home and walking down to Mill Valley. The following 12 species were seen: Turkey Vulture, California Quail, Steller Jay, Chestnutbacked Chickadee, Bush-tit, White-breasted Nuthatch (Slender-billed), Wren-tit, Hermit Thrush, Varied Thrush, Hutton Vireo, Western Meadowlark, Junco.

Fifteen members attended: Mr. and Mrs. Otis Smith; Mesdames A. B. Baer, Elsie Baer, Sadie Bozant, Esther S. Henrie, Bess McCarthy, Nichelsburg; Misses Jean B. Fay, Margaret Milwain, Amy Rinehart, Hazel Walsh; Messrs. Jack Heyneman, John A. Keating, H. G. Peterson. One guest, Andre Henrie, husband of the leader.

—Margaret Milwain, Historian

December Field Trip

The twenty-eighth annual census of waterbirds at Lake Merritt, Oakland, was taken on Sunday, December 15th, under the direction of Mr. Arthur H. Myer. The day was cold and gray, but visibility was good in spite of leaden skies. The following twenty four species of water birds were counted:

Horned Grebe 8
Eared Grebe 56
Western Grebe 2
Pied-billed Grebe 12
Double-crested Cormorant
(Farallon) 23
Common Egret (American) 2
Black-crowned Night Heron 29

Canvas-back 136
Redhead 1
Scaup 28
Common Golden-eye (American) 43
Ruddy Duck 116
American Coot 475
Glaucous-winged Gull 72
Herring Gull 3

Mallard 97 Pintail 452 Baldpate 296 Shoveller 2 Wood Duck 2

California Gull 22 Ring-billed Gull 51 Bonaparte Gull 68 Forster Tern 11 Total: 2007 individuals

Pinioned Geese not included in the above: Canada 4, Cackling 3, White-fronted 3, Lesser Snow 8.

Twenty species of land birds were seen:

California Quail
Spetted Sandpiper
Robin
Hermit Thrush
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Cedar Waxwing
Hutton Vireo

Red-shafted Flicker California Jay Townsend Warbler House Sparrow Brewer Blackbird Purple Finch Spotted Towhee Plain Titmouse Bush-tit Brown Towhee White-crowned Sparrow Golden-crowned Sparrow Song Sparrow

As the group was dispersing in the afternoon, the number of Glaucous-winged Gulls was reduced to 71 due to one casualty. The victim was used by Mrs. Austin for a brief lesson in ornithology, after which it was delivered to the Oakland Public Museum with the hope that the skin could be saved.

18 members and 6 guests participated in the census.

-Margaret Milwain, Historian

Observations, edited by Junea W. Kelly

California Roadrunner, November 29, Crystal Springs Lake; White-throated Swift (35 or more), December 2, Montara Point; Pigeon Hawk, December 2, Santa Cruz; Tree Swallow, December 7, Moss Landing, Gordon L. Bolander.

Hooded Mergansers, 2 males, 1 female, November 3, Phoenix Lake, Marin County; 1 male Buffle-head and 1 male Shoveller, November 23, Lake Merritt; Junea W. Kelly.

Bald Eagle, December 2, Crystal Springs, Edwin McClintock (reported by Gordon L. Bolander.)

Hooded Mergansers, 4, November 24, Phoenix Lake, Marin County; Margaret Milwain.

December Meeting

The 351st meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific was held Thursday evening, December 12, 1946, at 8:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, California.

The meeting was opened by the President, Miss Jean Bradford Fay. Miss Hazel Walsh read the minutes of the November meeting. Forty-two members and guests were present.

Mr. Gordon L. Bolander and Mr. John Roush were welcomed on their return from military duty.

Miss Fay reported the death of Mr. Albert B. Stephens. On motion presented by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Mrs. Kilham, it was requested that Mr. J. J. Webb, corresponding secretary, be directed to write a letter of condolence to Mrs. Stephens.

Mr. Leffler reported on details of the Christmas census to be taken on Sunday, December 22nd, and assigned districts.

Mr. Gordon L. Bolander told of his birding experiences in Texas, Mississippi, Illinois and North Carolina, and in England, France and Switzerland.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

—Hazel Walsh, Recording Seceretary, pro tem

January Meeting

The 352nd meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be held on Thursday, January 9, 1947 at 8:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Public Library at Larkin and McAllister Streets. Mr. Walter W. Bradley, vice-president, will be the speaker of the evening. Mr. Bradley will show kodachrome slides of some of the birds of California and Florida, filmed during his recent trip.

January Field Trip

On January 11, 1947, William D. Landels, guest leader, will lead the field trip to the U.C. Campus and Strawberry Canyon in Berkeley. Meet at the corner of University Avenue and Oxford Street at 10:05 a.m. S. F. members take the "F" train leaving the Key System Terminal at 9:27 a.m. Get off at the corner of University and Shattuck, Walk 2 blocks east on Uni-Oxford Street. to luncheon and binoculars. Mr. Mrs. Arthur H. Myer have kindly invited the group to meet at their home, at 25 El Camino Real, at twelve o'clock.

IN MEMORIAM: It is with sorrow that we report the death of one of our members, Mr. Albert B. Stephens, on November 21, 1946.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.......Miss Jean Bradford Fay......2312 Leavenworth St.,

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 8:00 p. m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., San Francisco

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year